

Message Text

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ACTION AF-06

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FM AMEMBASSY FREETOWN

TO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

SECSTATE WASHDC 1530

C O N F I D E N T I A L FREETOWN 1634

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, UR, IN, SL

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT STEVENS TO VISIT SOVIET UNION AND INDIA

REF: FREETOWN 1274

1. RUSSIAN CHARGE NICHOLAI LEONOV HAS INFORMED AMBASSADOR THAT RUSSIAN VISIT BY PRESIDENT STEVENS PREVIOUSLY SCHEDULED FOR EARLY AUGUST HAS BEEN POSTPONED ONCE AGAIN PROBABLY UNTIL EARLY NEXT YEAR DUE TO "PARTY CONGRESS". THIS CONFIRMED BY FOREIGN MINISTER MINAH.

2. YESTERDAY, HOWEVER, PRESIDENT STEVENS TOLD DIPLOMATIC COLLEAGUE THAT TRIP BY HIM TO RUSSIA IN AUGUST WAS A DEFINITE POSSIBILITY. ALTHOUGH HE DIDN'T TELL THE PRESIDENT, COLLEAGUE HAS LEARNED THAT PROBLEM OVER STEVENS' VISIT RESULTS FROM SOVIET AMBASSADOR FILIPPOV'S OFFER OF VISIT TO STEVENS BEFORE SOVIET GOVERNMENT APPROVED. SOVIETS APPARENTLY VERY COOL TO IDEA OF THIS TRIP BUT FILIPPOV, DEAN OF THE CORPS AND CURRENTLY IN USSR ON HOME LEAVE, BELIEVES HIS CREDIBILITY ON THE LINE AND IS PUSHING HARD.SAMUELS

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Message Attributes

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